

To: House Health Committee
From: Laura Varier, Providence Children's Development Institute
Date: 3/7/17
Re: HB 2392

Chair Greenlick, Members of the committee

For the record, my name is Laura Varier and I am a pediatric audiologist with Providence Children's Development Institute.

I am writing today to express my support of HB2392. I am a pediatric audiologist, who has dedicated my career to helping children with hearing loss reach their full potential in language acquisition and academic achievement.

Language acquisition in children with hearing loss starts with early and appropriate access to sound through hearing aids, cochlear implants and/or FM systems. Hearing technology is a financial burden on many families, especially when insurance does not cover hearing aids or only covers a portion. Amplification will benefit all children with all degrees and configurations of hearing loss. We know that listening technology is vital in preventing developmental delays in children. Research supports hearing aids/cochlear implants/FM systems for all children in infancy with hearing loss and insurance should cover these costs.

I appreciate your time and effort and strongly urge you to support HB 2392.

Sincerely,
Laura Varier, Au.D., CCC-A